

**Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial
Commission Meeting**
July 27, 2011
Arkansas State Library
Little Rock, Arkansas

Members Present

Carolyn Ashcraft – Director, Arkansas State Library
Dr. Jamie Brandon – Magnolia, Governor Appointee
Mark Christ – Designee, Department of Arkansas Heritage
Richard Davies – Director, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism
Robert Dodson – House Speaker Designee
Tommy Dupree – Jacksonville, Governor Appointee
Tom Ezell – President, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Mark Kalkbrenner – Commander, Arkansas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
Dr. George Lankford – Batesville, Senate Pro Tem Designee
DeeLois Lawrence – President, Arkansas Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy
Cathie Matthews – Department of Arkansas Heritage Director
Archie Moore – Little Rock, Governor Appointee
Timothy G. Nutt – Arkansas Historical Association
Dr. Wendy Richter – Director, Arkansas History Commission
DuShun Scarbrough – Director, Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

Members Absent

Ernest Cunningham – Helena-West Helena, Governor Appointee
Keith Emis – Fayetteville, House Speaker Designee
Bill Gatewood – Director, Old State House Museum
W. Danny Honnoll – President, Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation
John C. Scott – Superintendent, Pea Ridge National Military Park

Visitors

TyKyerah Alexander – Intern, Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
Chris Allen – Helena-West Helena
Darcy Baskin – ACWSC Administrative Analyst
Carl Carlson-Drexler – Arkansas Archeological Survey
Calan Cleveland – Intern, Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
Jack E. Hill – TeleVision for Arkansas
Frances McSwain – AHPP Director
Bernadette Martin – Intern, Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
Laura Miller – Superintendent, President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home
National Historic Site
Rick Richmond – Intern, Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

DuShun Scarbrough Jr. – Intern, Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
James Thompson – Helena-West Helena
Asjah Wrather – Intern, Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

Chairman Tommy Dupree called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. He introduced new commission member Robert Dodson. Robert was appointed to the commission by House Speaker Robert Moore. Tommy then asked each visitor to stand and state their name and affiliation.

Tommy then called for the approval of the minutes from the April 27, 2011, ACWSC meeting. Tim Nutt mentioned the omission of his name from “Members Absent” list. His name will be added. Richard Davies moved for acceptance of the minutes from the April 27, 2011, commission meeting, as amended. George Lankford seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tommy announced that Ellen Lewis has resigned from the commission and we will be seeking to fill the position.

Report on Helena Civil War Project

Chris Allen and James Thompson gave an update to the commission. Chris discussed their communications plans. She noted that four years ago the Southern Bancorp unveiled the bridge project promoting tourism in the Delta. Helena is continuing to promote tourism in the area and one way is through sharing the unique story of the Civil War in Helena. A research firm based in Kentucky, Mudpuppy and Waterdog, was contracted to complete the research about Helena in the Civil War. The Helena Civil War project has developed a set of initiatives for sharing the research. There are plans to build a replica of Fort Curtis in downtown Helena. This will be an earthen and wooden fort and will hopefully be unveiled early next year. Another initiative is to build Freedom Park in downtown. The park will contain exhibits and waysides about the Civil War in Helena. The project also includes creating a Civil War visitor center in Estevan Hall. This is an 1830s house on Biscoe Street.

Chris also updated the commission on the formation and activities of the Helena Civil War project’s Communications Committee. They have held one meeting. Discussion in the meeting centered on determining their audiences, developing their message, exploring what media to use, and identifying allied organizations. Chris reviewed the members of the committee: Chris Allen (retired Entergy Customer Services), James Thompson (retired Entergy Manager of Media Communications), Sean Clancy (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette), Thomas Jacques (Delta Cultural Center Communications Director), Kimberly Williams (Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism Travel Writer), Melissa Martinez (Helena World), Dr. Lillie Fears (Arkansas State University), Dominik Mjartan (Southern Bancorp), Dr. Trey Berry (Southern Arkansas University – Historical Consultant), and Mark Christ (Arkansas Historic Preservation Program – Historical Consultant). Chris closed with a request for contact information to assist with spreading ideas about the project.

Chris turned the presentation over to James Thompson. He reviewed the outcomes of the first communications committee meeting. They are planning to hold a huge media kickoff in late 2011 or early 2012. They would like to bring in media from Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee along with various officials including the Governor and Civil War experts and authors. Invitations for the media kickoff will be distributed once they set a date. James noted that they have already received a great response from the media - in Memphis, Little Rock and Jackson. The communications committee will continue their work by sending out news releases and requesting contacts to get the word out about this project.

Jack Hill observed that it has been puzzling to him why Helena always had this great information and never took advantage of it. He congratulates the city for now utilizing the information to benefit the area.

Mark Christ added that the wayside exhibits that will go into Freedom Park were paid for by the ACWSC.

Jamie Brandon reminded the Commission of their goal of helping tell the local story. He noted that Helena's project is a great demonstration of this goal in action.

Richard Davies stated that the Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism is building a new welcome center in Helena at the base of the bridge.

Chris Allen passed around a visual of the exhibits in Freedom Park.

George Lankford mentioned a hole in history that might be an interesting project for someone to research about Helena. The topic involves researching the Army of the Southwest's recruitment and organization of African Americans in Batesville. George knows they then moved from Batesville to Helena. However, no one has traced this group of people and their genealogy. He noted the opportunity for African American heritage tourism and genealogical research related to this project. Chris responded that that kind of historical and genealogical research is something they want to develop through a new library in the area, though the idea is still in the beginning stages.

Report on Heritage Trail Program

Richard Davies and Mark Christ visited the Highway Department to discuss the Heritage Trail Program signage. Richard explained that there was an issue with how to handle the signage on the route from Memphis to Little Rock as several Heritage Trails follow that route. They decided to place one large sign and have five signs underneath that note the various heritage trails. The Highways Department has all the necessary art for creating the signs and they should be in place statewide by October.

Richard also mentioned the Motorcycle Civil War trails, which was an ACWSC grant recipient. The trail program was mentioned in the motorcycle magazine *Wing World Magazine* and as a result they are now receiving many out-of-state email requests. He

noted that the brochure contained a QR code as these are growing in popularity and use. This is a very popular program and will create a lot of interest once the signs are in place around the state.

Richard informed the Commission that they can order Heritage Trail and the Civil War Motorcycle brochures by calling the front office of the Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism. The number is (501) 682-7777.

Tommy Dupree inquired about the number of signs that will be placed. Richard responded that there will be some signage overlap on the Southwest Trail and Memphis Highway. Therefore rather than having five separate signs with the symbol and different trail names. They will have one sign in place with a list of all the trails along that route. Richard also noted that the Highway Department also places signs at all intersections. They are paying \$330,000 for these signs and he is very appreciative of this support for the Heritage Trails program.

Tommy also asked about the signs that were purchased two years ago that display the old symbol. Richard suggested using them for side trails or local projects as the symbols are still valuable.

Report on Logo Use Requests and Events

Darcy Baskin reported on the activities of the Sanctioning Task Force.

All Civil War-related events hosted by agencies of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, Arkansas State Parks, the National Parks System, and all ACWSC Grant Recipients are automatically sanctioned and may use the logo to promote their program.

Logo use request applications received from organizations not included in the list above have their application sent to the Sanctioning Task Force for review.

Darcy provided highlights on some of the programs the task force has approved since the last meeting in April:

- 1) 1) Society for the History of Medicine and the Health Profession (Historical Research Center in the UAMS Library) will have a traveling exhibit from the National Museum of Civil War Medicine
- 2) The Saline County Library is hosting an event each month from June to October featuring a speaker discussing a Civil War topic
- 3) The Clark County Historical Association will hold a cemetery tour in October called "Voices from Rose Hill"
- 4) The Central Arkansas Coin Club is using the logo design to place on their annual wooden nickel

- 5) The Arkansas Center for the Book at the Arkansas State Library will create a bookmark for each year of the Sesquicentennial – the bookmark will feature a reading list for Civil War related adult and juvenile books.

All events are posted to the ACWSC website here:
www.arkansascivilwar150.com/events.

Carolyn Ashcraft distributed two examples of the Civil War Sesquicentennial bookmarks created by the Arkansas Center for the Book. She noted that they will present two bookmarks each year. They have scheduled Geraldine Brooks to present in November. Check the website for a schedule <http://www.library.arkansas.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

Report on Grants

Darcy Baskin provided a report on the grants program. She noted that the grant program is back up and running with a new source of funding. She recognized Cathie Matthews' decision to direct \$125,000 of General Improvement Funds to the Commission; \$60,000 of which will be dedicated to the grants program.

Darcy reminded the Commissioners that as they discuss the grant program with interested parties to direct them to the ACWSC website for grant application materials. They will click on Markers & Grants and then click on the grant information link, which will lead them to the page that includes the grant manual, application, budget sheet, a FAQs list and a grant checklist.

Round 3 of the grants program will close at **4:30 on Friday, August 19**.

She noted that we will plan to hold a staff review and a grant committee review in early September.

Darcy also announced her plans to resign from the Administrative Analyst position by September 9 as she is moving out-of-state. This commission meeting will be her last to support. She thanked the Commission for the opportunity to support their activities and programs over the past year.

Update on Historical Marker Program

Mark Christ gave an update on the Historical Marker Program. He noted that there are currently 20 markers in the ground around the state. Two markers for Carroll County were recently shipped.

The committee recently approved a marker application from the sesquicentennial committee in Boone County. MC explained that the two sides will cover Union and Confederate units raised in Boone Co. and military activities in the county.

We recently received an application from South Arkansas Historical Foundation for the Mount Holly Cemetery near El Dorado. The application is out to the historical marker committee for review and once approved Mark will begin working on the marker text. Mark encouraged the commissioner to promote the marker program – we have plenty of funding available.

Update on Traveling Exhibit

Mark Christ updated the Commission on the status of the traveling exhibit. The exhibit debuted the month before last at Cox Creative center in downtown Little Rock. Then it spent a few weeks in Jonesboro and now it is on to three weeks in Van Buren. Mark mentioned all the cities and towns that are currently signed up to display the traveling exhibit including Fayetteville, Malvern, Arkadelphia, Searcy, Magnolia, Blytheville, Mountain Home, Sheridan, Fort Smith, Pine Bluff and Jacksonport. He encouraged commissioners to spread the word about this opportunity. He would love to have the traveling exhibit displayed in communities all over the state. It is free to display the exhibit and the Arkansas Humanities Council (AHC) is in charge of distributing the exhibit. The council ships the exhibit out to the next destination and the receiving organization is responsible for shipping it back and any associated costs.

Update on Passport Program

Mark Christ gave an update on the Passport Program. The program is going strong with the first 20,000 passports distributed in the first few months. He is sending out a new order for passports. We have yet to receive a completed passport. When we receive our first completed passport it will be posted to the website.

Update on Podcasts

Mark Christ updated the commission on the development of podcasts. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) will begin their fall semester in a few weeks. As with previous semesters, we plan to use a designated student to handle the recording and sound editing of the podcasts. Mark solicited the commission for topic ideas. He also noted that the KUAR minutes will be broadcast on other public radio stations around the state such as Jonesboro, Fayetteville and Texarkana.

Update on the Department of Arkansas Heritage (DAH) Cell Phone Tours

Mark Christ provided an update on the DAH Cell Phone Tour program. There has already been a lot of response to the signs. The first nine signs have been in place for several months now. There are plans to add sidebars to some of the signs. For example,

the sign at Fourche Bayou will have another one about the failed Federal pursuit of the retreating Confederates.

Mark reviewed the next locations for sign placements - St. Charles, Massard Prairie, Reed's Bridge, Pine Bluff, Fayetteville, Fitzhugh's Woods and Whitney's Lane.

After giving his reports on the historical markers, traveling exhibit, passport program, podcasts and cell phone tour signs, Mark opened the floor for comments.

George Lankford commented on Mark's participation on the television show History Detectives.

Tommy Dupree noted the positive responses they have received in Jacksonville at the battlefield and at the museum. He reminded the committee to emphasize to visitors that they have a few years to complete their passports.

Mark Kalbrenner spoke with employee at the Grant County Museum that said they stamped around 10 to 15 passports everyday. Mark Christ recognized Laura Miller for the passport idea.

Discussion of Budgetary/ Financial Issues

Cathie Matthews noted that DAH is very fortunate to receive a portion of the General Improvement Fund (GIF) release. She felt it was important to place some of the funds toward the ACWSC since no funding was received during the last session.

Mark Christ noted that \$125,000 was designated to the ACWSC. Of this amount, \$60,000 will be applied toward the grant program and the rest will cover maintenance and operations. A portion of the maintenance and operations funding supports the Administrative Analyst position. Mark added that the Commission also has available some funding from the GIF given during the last biennium. He concluded that the Commission is in good shape financially.

ACWSC Subcommittee Reports

There were no official subcommittee reports.

Mark Christ asked for a volunteer to join the links committee and the logo use committee as Ellen Lewis has resigned from the Commission. Tom Ezell and Robert Dodson volunteered for the committees. Mark noted that he will follow up with them.

New Business

2012 NPS Seminar in Northwest Arkansas – Laura Miller, Superintendent – President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site

Laura Miller began her presentation noting that she serves as the Arkansas representative for Midwest Region of the National Park Service. Each state in the region has agreed to host a symposium. Arkansas will host in 2012. She would like to bring in people from Pea Ridge National Military Park, area state parks and the NPS. Symposium themes would focus on the role of American Indians in the Civil War and home front issues. They are considering hosting the symposium in Fayetteville. Her proposition for the ACWSC is to arrange a partnership with NPS to host the 2012 signature event in conjunction with the symposium. Laura noted they have funding to host the symposium; however, the funds are limited to certain line items. NPS funds cannot be used to purchase food, for publicity or toward fundraising activities. They are considering hosting the event in either August or October of 2012.

Richard Davies asked if this could be the Commission's 2012 signature event. Jamie Brandon reminded the Commission that there was a group in northwest Arkansas also planning an event. Mark Christ responded stating that the northwest Arkansas group has decided to host a student podcast contest; therefore, holding a signature event in partnership with the NPS would not interfere.

Richard Davies made a motion and Jamie Brandon seconded the motion for the ACWSC to partner with the NPS on a 2012 signature event in northwest Arkansas in conjunction with the Midwest Region symposium. The motion passed.

Laura noted that the working title for the symposium is "War of the West."

Richard Davies mentioned that the Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism (ADPT) has completely redone Hindman Hall with new exhibits. Laura added that they are planning to work in a few tours of the area during the 2012 symposium.

National Endowment for the Humanities Program – Mark Christ

Mark Christ referred to the Making Sense of the Civil War handout. He noted that this is a project of National Endowment for the Humanities. The handout serves as a reading list to promote focused reading groups on the Civil War during the Sesquicentennial. The state humanities councils had an opportunity to receive \$10,000 and 100 sets of the selected readings. The American Library Association selected a few libraries in the state to participate in the program. The Fayetteville Public Library and ASU in Jonesboro were selected. The Arkansas Humanities Council with Carolyn Ashcraft identified libraries within the state with strong reading programs. They are going to encourage scholars to lead programs in select libraries and the group is meeting soon to iron out the details. The programs will be conducted regionally. Mark will have more details to follow.

Gilder Lehrman Institute Proposal – ACWSC

Tommy referred to the handout about the Gilder Lehrman Institute Proposal and asked the committee to review it.

Jamie Brandon noted that it was an interesting idea however he is not sure of the demand for the program. He suggested contacting someone who is more familiar with the state's needs such as the Arkansas History Commission or the Arkansas Department of Education to determine if buying in to this type of program would be useful. Mark Christ noted that the Commission did not seem to be the best fit for this program. Jamie said it is an interesting idea but he is not sure of the demand. Mark Kalkbrenner noted that it is usually the GATE or pullout programs that use them. George Lankford stated that this idea would work better if teachers were submitting a grant application to the Commission for purchase of the program. The Commission should not purchase them on the front end. Carolyn Ashcraft noted that it is not really the Commission's place to purchase them. Perhaps we should refer this to Arkansas Department of Education or a History Teachers group. If they are interested then perhaps they can apply for a grant. Mark Christ concluded that he will refer this to other groups that might benefit from such a program. DeeLois Lawrence stated that if we are going to spend this sort of money it should be toward Arkansas Civil War history.

Discussion of Date and Location of next ACWSC Meeting

Mark Christ reminded the Commission that the next scheduled meeting date is October 26, 2011. Chris Allen and James Thompson of Helena had not determined when the groundbreaking for Fort Curtis would take place. Now that the Commission has a budget they can consider meeting locations outside of Little Rock. Mark suggested Helena as a good location for their next meeting. While he noted that it would be great to be able to coordinate the meeting with the Fort Curtis groundbreaking. The groundbreaking may not take place until early November. Tommy Dupree suggested leaving it up to Mark to set the meeting date. James Thompson noted that they are meeting with Cathy Cunningham soon to see where they are with the project. Even if the groundbreaking cannot occur during the meeting day he still thinks it would be a great opportunity to see the area and see all the plans.

Carolyn Ashcraft asked about Wendy Richter's handout. Wendy explained that the booklet concerned Civil War related manuscript collections at the Arkansas History Commission that illustrate the depth of their collection. Wendy also described the Arkansas Records Catalog, which is a list of finding aids and holdings all over the state. This catalog serves as a great resource for researchers to link them up with institutions across the state. The preliminary site is up and running.

George Lankford provided an update that the History Day state coordinator Pat Ramsay has recovered from her illness. She is trying to suggest to teachers to convince their students to do projects on local history, link with the Civil War sesquicentennial, and use local resources and research. Pat will continue to promote this through her teacher relationships. The History Day topic for this year is Revolution, Reaction and Reform and it is the student's responsibility to work that topic into a concrete project. In a recent teachers' workshop there were suggestions provided to the teachers about the different kinds of revolutions going on during the Civil War. Many of them left the workshop with

some concrete ideas. George suggested that the Commission could assist with spreading the word because most of the Commissioners are members of county historical societies. He recommended offering assistance to teachers for History Day. With students doing the research we could most likely get some original research completed in Arkansas by some of our own students. Mark Christ noted that at the state competition level there are cash prizes.

Mark Kalkbrenner updated the Commission about a meeting of re-enactors in the southern part of state. The purpose is to coordinate events among the various re-enactor groups. They plan to have one event a month. Currently scheduled events include: August – Reed’s Bridge, September – Poison Springs and the Chalk Bluff rescheduled event, October – Sulfur Springs, and November – Old Washington State Park. Mark said that he would send the exact dates so we could add them to the site. He also noted that November 6 is the Pine Bluff Lodge sesquicentennial. Mark Christ inquired about a point of contact for re-enactors group. Mark K responded with Will Hardage.

Tommy Dupree asked new commission member Robert Dodson to introduce himself. He represents the southern part of the state. Robert is from Camden and he appreciates the opportunity to be apart of the Commission.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Minutes compiled by Darcy Baskin, ACWSC Administrative Analyst.